Equipment of Chinese vendor

2901. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the measures Government is taking to ensure proper testing and security audit of telecom network and equipment supplied by Chinese vendor, Huawei, being installed in South India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) to (c) The Government has issued instructions to Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) for security audit to the effect that networks and its elements are free from any trapdoors/black boxes/malwares and are not susceptible to remote hacking, irrespective of origin of manufacturing, before operationalisation.

Effect of global economic recession on IT industry

2902. SHRI SHYAMAL CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the global economic recession has any effect upon the IT industry; and

(b) number of people working in this sector that have lost their jobs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) The Indian IT and ITES/BPO sector has witnessed some slow down in comparison to its historical rate of growth. It is estimated that the growth rate of the IT and ITES sector during 2008-09 would be 16.3% as compared to around 30% in the last few years. The total export revenue of this sector is estimated at US$ 47 billion in 2008-09, as compared to US$ 40.4 billion in 2007-08.

(b) As per the National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM), the IT and IT Enabled Services/BPO Sector remains a net hirer. During the Financial Year 2008-09, the direct employment in this sector is estimated to reach nearly 2.23 millions from 2.0 millions in the previous year.

Facilities in Post Offices

†2903. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of post offices in urban and rural areas which are equipped with e-mail, internet and computer facilities;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether Government has prepared any time bound programme to provide computer facility in remaining post offices;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether Government proposes to provide the said facilities in all the main post offices within stipulated time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) The number of Post Offices in urban and rural areas which are equipped with computers facilities are as under:—

	In urban areas	In rural areas	Total
Computer facility	6686	2998	9684

As per the information available, 5544 Post Offices are equipped with broadband internet facility. Department of Posts does not provide e-mail facilities.

(b) to (e) Computerisation of Post Office is an ongoing programme and is being pursued in phased manner.

Discovery of Buddhist site in A.P.

2904. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:
SHRI NANDAMURI HARIKRISHNA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Department of Archaeology and Museums, Andhra Pradesh has discovered a new Buddhist site in Rayavaram Mandal of Visakhapatnam; and

(b) if so, the details of the discovery?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Department of Archaeology, Government of Andhra Pradesh has discovered a Buddhist site at Pedauppalam (locally called-Pedauppalam Cheruvu) in March 2008 in S. Rayavaram Mandal of Vishakapatnam District of the State. Traces of Brick structures, a damaged Buddha image in Khondalite stone, early Historic pot sherds, fragments of stucco figures, large size bricks (50 × 25 × 7cm) are noticed at the site datable to 2nd Century AD.

Funds for protecting monuments in Orissa

2905. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the total funds released to protect the old historical rare monuments in Orissa like Konark temple, Puri Jagannath temple, Lingaraj temple and Buddha Pitha like Dhauli, Khandagiri, Ratnagiri, Lalitgiri and Udayagiri and Biraja temple Jajpur, Orissa?